

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended herewith. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 4-5 subject to being amended to independent form. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-3

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,478,260 ("Kaufman"). These claims are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to further clarify one of pertinent aspects of the invention. Specifically, claim 1 requires that "a first terminal section and a second terminal section ... with positional discrepancy therebetween in a card inserting direction"

Further, claim 1 recites that "the group of external connection terminals are in contact only with the first terminal section when the card is placed in the first accommodating position," and that "the group of external connection terminals are in contact only with the second terminal section when the card is placed in the second accommodating position" (emphasis added). Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found at, for example, page 15, lines 16-20 referring to Fig. 6; and page 17, lines 4-9 referring to Fig. 9. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

In a specific embodiment of the invention, as illustrated in, for example, Figs. 6 and 9, there are two separate positions of an inserted card which correspond to different sets of contacts, i.e., the contacts 3a and 4a as shown in Fig. 1. When the card is located at the first accommodating position, the group of external connection terminals 61 are in contact only with the contacts 3a, not the contacts 4a. Alternatively, when the card is located at the second accommodating position, the group of external connection terminals 61 are in contact only with the contacts 4a, not the contacts 3a. In other words, only a single terminal section with which the group of external connection terminals are in contact is selected from the first terminal section (e.g., the contacts 3a) and the second terminal section (e.g., the contacts 4a) depending on the accommodating position.

By contrast, the Kaufman patent uses multiple terminals 36 having the first and second connecting portions 38 and 40. However, these connecting portions 38 and 40 are not terminal sections with positional discrepancy in a card inserting direction as recited in claim 1. Rather, the connecting portions 38 and 40 of Kaufman have no positional discrepancy in the card inserting direction. Thus, Kaufman cannot be said to anticipate every element recited in claim 1.

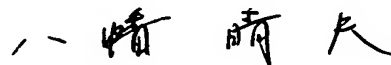
Furthermore, as indicated by Fig. 1 of the Kaufman patent, both of the connecting portion 38 and the connecting portion 40 are in contact with the complementary terminals of the memory card 70 (column 3, lines 61-66). Therefore, the connecting portions 38 and 40 do not show the claimed connection terminals which come into contact with different terminal sections depending on the card's accommodating position as recited in claim 1. The Kaufman patent fails to teach or suggest such selectivity of electrical connection between the terminals on the card on one hand, and two sets of terminal sections of the card connector unit on the other, depending on the extent of the card's insertion as claimed. Accordingly, the invention of claim 1 is patentable over the Kaufman patent in this regard as well.

In view of the foregoing, independent claim 1 and its dependent claims are believed to be allowable over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200.

Respectfully submitted,
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Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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